

News Release

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Homeland Security Conference Highlights Mississippi's Responders

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Tunica County, MS – The sixth annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference presented an opportunity for Mississippi's emergency responders to identify common needs and share solutions. "Ensuring that best practices are shared between agencies and keeping the lines of communication open are vital to protecting our citizens," said Director of Homeland Security J.W. Ledbetter.

The Governor's Homeland Security Conference was held at the Grand Casino Convention Center in Tunica County, MS, March 11th through the 14th.

The Conference will featured education sessions for over 800 Mississippi responders in the areas of prevention, preparedness, intelligence sharing, public health and animal health.

The Governor's Homeland Security Conference presents a unique and valuable forum for the state's emergency responders to ascertain needs, shortcomings and successes experienced this past year. "Together, the responder community has the opportunity to engage in a unified vision for future prevention and response capabilities." said Mississippi Office of Homeland Security J.W. Ledbetter.

Education sessions were be provided by the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, the Mississippi Department of Health, and the Mississippi Board of Animal health.

Breakout sessions were held in 50 minute segments throughout the conference detailing such areas as Special Needs Sheltering, Pandemic Influenza, Unified Command, Protocols for Search and Rescue, and Food Chain Security. In all, twelve sessions were be available to every attendee, providing them a forum to ask questions and knowledgeable instructors with an aptitude for answering the inquiries.

The sessions began at noon on Wednesday, March 12 with remarks from Commissioner of Public Safety Charlie Williams, State Health Officer Dr. Ed Thompson and State Veterinarian Dr. James Watson.

Federal Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Anne Petera was the featured speaker.

This conference was the largest yet, with nearly 1,000 attendees.